SPECIAL FEATURE NO. 3-1888 JUNE 30, 1978
NANCY LANG

GEORGE M. COHAN POSTAGE STAMP
(INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: GEORGE M. COHAN (COE-HAN), FAMOUS AMERICAN SONGWRITER, PRODUCER, DIRECTOR, DANCER AND ACTOR IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THIS CENTURY WILL BE (WAS) HONORED ON JULY 4TH (TODAY) (YESTERDAY) (TOMORROW) WITH A THIRTEEN CENT STAMP, ISSUED BY THE U.S. POSTAL SERVI E THE OCCASION MARKS HIS ONE HUNDREDETH BIRTHDAY. HERE WITH THAT STORY IS VOA"S----------.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- YOU'RE A GRAND OLD FLAG(FADE WHERE NEEDED) :44

VOICE COMPOSER OF THAT TUNE, "YOU'RE A GRAND OLD FLAG" GEORGE COHAN, WAS BORN IN 1878, IN PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND. HIS PARENTS WERE TRAVELLING ACTORS IN VAUDEVILLE -- A THEN POPULAR FORM OF ENTERTAINMENT. AT THE AGE OF NINE, GEORGE AND HIS SISTER JOSEPHINE, JOINED THEIR PARENTS, AND THEY BEGAN TOURING AS "THE FOUR COHANS." QUICKLY THE YOUNG MAN POLISHED HIS DANCING AND SINGING SKILLS, AND EVENTUALLY BEGAN CREATING SKITS AND SKETCHES. SOON HE WAS ALSO WRITING SONGS... GREAT SONGS SUCH AS "MARY'S A GRAND OLD NAME" THE WORLD WAR ONE HIT, "OVER THERE", "HARRIGAN" AND HIS EVER POPULAR "GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY" WHICH WE HEAR NOW.

TAPE: CUT TWO GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY (MERNA) FADE WHERE NEEDED

VOICE: COHAN WAS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS "THE MAN WHO OWNED BROADWAY." BY THE TIME HE DIED, HE HAD WRITTEN OVER 500 SONGS, CREATED OVER 31 BROADWAY SHOWS, AND WAS INVOLVED IN AN ADDITIONAL

VOICE: (CONT) FIFTY OTHER PRODUCTIONS. HE ALSO PERFORMED AT THE WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT, AND WAS HONORED BY A STATUE THAT WAS ERECTED IN NEW YORK'S TIMES SQUARE. YOUNGER GENERATIONS CAME TO KNOW HIS TALENT THROUGH BIOGRAPHICAL MOVIES AND A BROADWAY SHOW, "GEORGE M".

ENERGETIC, DYNAMIC, AND OUTGOING, THERE WERE SOME WHO FELT THAT HE WAS SOMEWHAT BRASH AND BRUSQUE. BENEATH THIS FACDE, HOWEVER, WAS A WARM HEARTED SENTIMENTAL MAN, WHO WAS EXTREMELY PATRIOTIC. GEORGE M. COHAN IS PERHAPS BEST REMEMBERED FOR HIS SONG, "I'M A YANKEE DOODLE BOY," WHICH BECAME A KIND OF SIGNATURE TUNE FOR HIM. THE INDEPENDENCE DAY CEREMONY, IN PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, CELEBRATING THE ISSUANCE OF THE U-S POSTAGE STAMP IS, THEREFORE, TIMELY AND APPROPRIATE FOR THIS PATRIOTIC YANKEE SONGSMITH -- GEORGE M. COHAN, BORN ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO ON THE 4TH OF JULY

TAPE: CUT THREE -- "I'M A YANKEE DOODLE BOY" (1:07 FADE IF DESIRED)

# # # #

BML/RCS